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NOMENCLATURAL NOTE ON *EUGENIA MARITIMA* AND *MYRCIA POLYANTHA* (MYRTACEAE)

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ABSTRACT

Application of the names *Eugenia maritima* DC. and *Myrcia polyantha* DC., is discussed — these were proposed twice by de Candolle in the same publication — and validation is provided for the names involved: *Eugenia ilhensis* O. Berg, *Eugenia maritima* (Kunth) DC. (interpreted here as the correct name for *E. acapulcensis*), **Myrcia neopolyantha** Sobral & Mazine, **nom. nov.** (a replacement name for *Myrcia polyantha* DC.), and *M. splendens* (Sw.) DC. Comments are provided for additional varieties of *M. polyantha*.

Eugenia maritima and *Myrcia polyantha* were proposed twice by de Candolle in his treatment of Myrtaceae for the Prodromus (1828). In both cases, these names were proposed for a new species and for a combination based on a preexisting name. Since then, authors have either considered some of these names valid or merged them in the synonymy of other species (Berg 1855–1856; Steudel 1840; McVaugh 1963; Govaerts et al. 2015); nevertheless, some of these usages are not in accordance with current nomenclatural rules. Here we discuss these names and propose what we consider their correct application according to International Code of Nomenclature for Algae, Fungi and Plants (ICN – McNeill et al. 2011).

1. *EUGENIA MARITIMA*

Eugenia maritima DC. was proposed for a Brazilian species by de Candolle (1828: 271), while *Eugenia maritima* (Kunth) DC. (1828: 282) was based on the Mexican *Myrtus maritima* Kunth (1823). The Brazilian species was previously undescribed, while the Mexican species was a new combination based on a preexisting name. Article 11.4 of ICN (McNeill et al. 2011) states that "the correct name for one taxon below the rank of genus is the combination of the final epithet of the earliest legitimate name of the taxon in the same rank, with the correct name of the genus or species to which it is assigned," implying that *Eugenia maritima* (Kunth) DC., based on *Myrtus maritima*, the earliest legitimate name, has priority over *Eugenia maritima* DC., which was correctly renamed by Berg (1856) as *Eugenia ilhensis*.

1.1. ***EUGENIA ILHENSIS*** O. Berg, Linnaea 27: 212. 1856. *Eugenia maritima* DC., Prodr. 3: 271. 1828, nom. illeg. (not *E. maritima* (Kunth) DC.). **TYPE**: **BRAZIL**. Bahia. "In Brasiliae maritimis ad Ilheos," *Martius s.n.* (M).

1.2. ***EUGENIA MARITIMA*** (Kunth) DC., Prodr. 3: 282. 1828. *Myrtus maritima* Kunth, Nov. Gen. Sp. 6: 146. 1823. **TYPE: MEXICO**: "Crescit in maritimis prope Acapulco Mexicanorum," *Humboldt & Bonpland s.n.* (P – for image see P 2015b).

= *Eugenia acapulcensis* Steud., Nomencl. Bot. ed. 2, 1: 601. 1840, nom. illeg., replacement name for *Eugenia maritima* (Kunth) DC.

This species is widely variable and has been extensively discussed under *Eugenia acapulcensis* (see McVaugh 1963: 421).

2. ***MYRCIA POLYANTHA***

This name was used both for the Brazilian *Myrcia polyantha* DC. (1828: 252), a new species, and the Venezuelan *Myrcia polyantha* (Kunth) DC., (1828: 255) a new combination based in *Myrtus polyantha* Kunth (1823: 140). The application of Article 11.4 of ICN (McNeill et al. 2011, see above under *Eugenia maritima*) states that *Myrcia polyantha* (Kunth) DC., based on the preexisting legitimate name *Myrtus polyantha,* is valid over *M. polyantha* DC. The Kunthian species is a synonym of *Myrcia splendens* (Sw.) DC. (Govaerts et al. 2015), while *Myrcia polyantha* DC. is a valid eastern Brazilian species in need of a replacement name. Berg (1857–1859), in his treatment of Brazilian Myrtaceae, considered *Myrcia polyantha* under his genus *Aulomyrcia* O. Berg (Berg 1855–1856: 35), under which he proposed three varieties, two of which belong to other species and are properly synonymized below.

2.1. ***MYRCIA MULTIFLORA*** (Lam.) DC., Prodr. 3: 244. 1828. *Eugenia multiflora* Lam., Encycl. 3: 202. 1789. **TYPE: FRENCH GUIANA**. Cayenne, *Stoupy s.n.* (P).

= *Aulomyrcia polyantha* (DC.) O. Berg var. *parviflora* O. Berg, Fl. Bras. 14(1): 82. 1857. **TYPE: BRAZIL**. "Inter urbes Vittoria et Bahia," *Sellow s.n.* (B, probably lost; probable isotypes K, P; for image see P 2015a).

The specimens at K and P do not have the label information cited in the protologue; nevertheless, both are identified in Berg's handwriting.

2.2. ***MYRCIA NEOPOLYANTHA*** Sobral & Mazine, **nom. nov.** Replacement name for *Myrcia polyantha* DC., Prodr. 3: 252. 1828 (not *Myrcia polyantha* (Kunth) DC.). *Aulomyrcia polyantha* (DC.) O. Berg, Linnaea 27: 50. 1856. *Aulomyrcia polyantha* (DC.) O. Berg var. *coriacea* O. Berg, Fl. Bras. 14(1): 82. 1857, nom. illeg. (= *Aulomyrcia polyantha* var. *polyantha*). **TYPE: BRAZIL**. "In Brasiliae campestribus apricis desertis provinciae Bahiensis," *Martius s.n.* (M; for image see M 2015a).

2.3. ***MYRCIA NEOROSTRATA*** Sobral, Novon 16: 136. 2006, replacement name for *Aulomyrcia rostrata* O.Berg, Fl. Bras. 14(1): 544. 1859. **TYPE: BRAZIL**. Bahia: 1880, *Blanchet s.n.* (LE, photo; isotype OXF, photo).

= *Aulomyrcia polyantha* (DC.) O. Berg var. *membranacea* O. Berg, Fl. Bras. 14(1): 82. 1857. **TYPE: BRAZIL**. "In campestribus apricis supra granitidem, prope S. Anna in desertis," *Martius s.n.* (M; for image see M 2015b).

2.4. ***MYRCIA SPLENDENS*** (Sw.) DC., Prodromus 3: 244. 1828. *Myrtus splendens* Sw., Prodr.: 79. 1788. **TYPE: HISPANIOLA**. *Swartz s.n.* (S).

= *Myrcia polyantha* (Kunth) DC., Prodromus 3: 255. 1828. *Myrtus polyantha* Kunth, Nov. Gen. Sp. 6: 140. 1823. **TYPE: VENEZUELA**. "Crescit ad ripam fluminis Atabapi, Misiones del Orinoco" *Humboldt & Bonpland s.n.* (P; for image see P 2015c).

For complete synonymy of this variable species, see Govaerts et al. (2015).

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